

BA-3046
Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District
Towson, Baltimore County
1870-1930

Schwartz Avenue is located in the Ninth District directly above the Baltimore City line. The Maryland Journal on November 25, 1865 lists Schwartz Avenue as a new road in Baltimore County. Richard G. Dunphy of Towsontown built the road for Hooper, Schwederlman, and Schwarz, whom owned adjoining properties on York Road above Govanstown. The road led to the farm of Henry Schwartz, a toy store owner in Baltimore City. Henry Schwartz was the brother of F.A.O. Schwarz, a significant figure in the toy industry.

Twenty-four dwellings are sited along the south side of Schwartz Avenue in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. A few lots in the southern portion of Schwartz Avenue is located in Baltimore City. Sited on the north side of Schwartz Avenue are Forge Park and a large shopping center, which faces York Road. This area has developed extensively during the last half of the 20th century. Architecturally, the historic vernacular dwellings in the Schwartz Avenue African American survey district date from 1870 to the early 20th century. Dating from the 1990s there is one non-historic house in the survey district. This group of dwellings is not uniform in style, forms, or details. A few of the houses feature forms or details that are described as a particular style such as Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival. The houses that can be categorized into a style remain vernacular and are modest examples of that style. The remaining dwellings along Schwartz Avenue do not exhibit any particular style both through its simple form and lack of ornament.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3046

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Twenty-four dwellings are sited along the south side of Schwartz Avenue in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. A few lots in the southern portion of Schwartz Avenue is located in Baltimore City. Sited on the north side of Schwartz Avenue are Forge Park and a large shopping center, which faces York Road. This area has developed extensively during the last half of the 20th century.

Schwartz Avenue is a paved dead-end road with a sidewalk along the south side of the street. The small lots along Schwartz Avenue are level and grassy and a few have paved or gravel driveways. Several of the lots are screened with shrubs and trees along the sidewalk and most of the houses are sited within ten feet of the sidewalk. Most of the dwellings take advantage of the long lots and feature long rectangular footprints.

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Predominantly, the area is made up of nineteen single-family dwellings and four twin dwellings. Ranging from two to two-and-a-half stories in height the dwellings generally measure two or three bays across. Each of the houses is wood frame and most have been re clad either with asbestos shingles, wood shingles, and vinyl or aluminum siding. One house retains its original stucco covering. The dwellings have either random-rubble stone or rock-faced concrete block foundations and many feature one-story porches across the façade. Roof types vary from front gables, side gables, cross gables, hipped, one M-gable roof, one Jerkinhead, and several shed roofs. Many of the houses have brick chimneys and several have replacement chimneys either brick or concrete block. The entries contain single-leaf doors and the historic windows featured are either 2/2 or 6/6 wood-sash.

Sited at 415 Schwartz Avenue, this single-family dwelling is a late example of a Gothic Revival-style house dating to circa 1875. It is constructed of wood frame and covered with stucco with remaining sections made to appear as ashlar stone. The rectangular form with a center cross gable roof is the primary element making the dwelling appear in a Gothic Revival style. The house stands two-and-a-half stories high and measures three bays wide featuring a center entry. Features of the dwelling include 6/6 wood-sash windows on the façade, a center interior brick parged chimney, and a wrap-around porch supported with wood turned posts.

An example of a Queen Anne-style dwelling in the survey district is located at 409 Schwartz Avenue and dates to circa 1910. Rising two-and-a-half stories high this single-family dwelling measures three bays wide and is of wood-frame construction. Capped with a cross-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles, this dwelling features a T-shaped footprint with a projecting front bay. The projecting bay on the façade features cut-away corners. A one-story screened porch covers the full-width of the façade. The original weatherboards are covered over with asbestos shingles.

Examples of Colonial Revival style dwellings are located at 421, 439, and 441 Schwartz Avenue. The Constructed circa 1900, this Four Square dwelling at 421 Schwartz Avenue stands two-and-a-half-stories high, measures two bays wide, and is of wood-frame construction. It is capped with a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles and features an interior-center brick chimney and a hipped dormer on the façade. Covering the first story on the façade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with square wood posts. The windows have been replaced and the house is re clad with German vinyl siding on the façade and asbestos shingles on the remaining elevations. Dating to circa 1920, the house at 439 Schwartz Avenue is similar in height, width, and construction materials to 433 Schwartz Avenue. It is capped with a front-gable roof and is clad with wood shingles. Features include a half-hipped porch on the façade, cornice returns, 2/2 wood-sash windows, and a center-interior concrete-block chimney.

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No. BA-3046

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The dwellings at 417 and 437 Schwartz Avenue were once used as African American schoolhouses. The house at 417 Schwartz Avenue is two stories high, two bays wide, and dates to circa 1910. It features a long rectangular footprint and is capped with a front-gable roof. Across the full-width of the façade is a shed roof porch supported with turned posts and square balusters. Alterations to the house include replacement windows and German vinyl siding covering the original weatherboards. The building at 437 Schwartz Avenue was built in 1908 as the Nazarites' Hall and then used as a school beginning in the early 1920s. Today, this building rises two-stories high and measures three bays across on the first story. The second story is pierced by one doorway. The wood frame building is clad with vinyl siding and features include a full-width porch across the façade, which has a roof balustrade, and it is capped with a jerkinhead roof.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3046

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1870-1930	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1870-1930		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Schwartz Avenue is located in the Ninth District directly above the Baltimore City line. The Maryland Journal on November 25, 1865 lists Schwartz Avenue as a new road in Baltimore County. Richard G. Dunphy of Towson town built the road for Hooper, Schwederlman, and Schwarz, whom owned adjoining properties on York Road above Govanstown.(1) The road led to the farm of Henry Schwartz, a toy store owner in Baltimore City. Henry Schwartz was the brother of F.A.O. Schwarz, a significant figure in the toy industry.(2)

In 1877, according to the Hopkins Atlas Schwartz Avenue was approximately five-and-a-half miles north of the Baltimore City line. The small village of Govanstown was directly south about a mile. Depicted at the west end of the road is H. Schwartz, for whom the street was named. Neighboring Henry Schwartz to the east and north of Schwartz Avenue was Mrs. Hooper's property. By 1877, nine lots were platted on the south side of Schwartz Avenue only one without a dwelling.(3) According to Roberta Garrett Carter, a lifelong resident of Schwartz Avenue, in 1876 Elizabeth Sheridan was the first African American to purchase a house on Schwartz Avenue. For six years Sheridan had leased the building prior to buying it.(4)

Built in 1908, 437 Schwartz Avenue (BA-2412) was constructed as the Nazarites' Hall. Members of the lodge met in this building until 1922 when the lodge lost the building. At this time, the organization defaulted on their payments of the property. Oral history describes that this building was used as a schoolhouse, school #159, during the mid-20th century. In 1987, Howard Gray converted it into a residence. The second African-American school in the area, Public School #22 was located at 417 Schwartz Avenue.(5)

The 1915 Bromley Atlas for the area shows fourteen houses, one African-American school, two stores/dwellings, three empty lots, and a large commercial building at the corner of York Road. At the end western end of Schwartz Avenue there was one dwelling on the north side of the street. By this time, Mrs. Hooper sold her property and the St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum was constructed. According to the 1915 Atlas lots increased in size incrementally from York Road to Shady Grove Park development to the west.(6)

The 1930 U.S. Census lists twenty-six African-American families residing on Schwartz Avenue. The names listed in the census include George Lyles, Willis Bowers, Thomas White, James Edwards, William Smith, Amos Fields, and Will Skinner. Interestingly, four families had female heads of households; Mary Johnson, Betty Washington, Lucy Hitchens, and Elizabeth Garrett. The residents predominate from Maryland with several coming from Virginia. Seventeen families owned their property and seven rented. Values of ownership ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and rent was either \$20 or \$30. Occupations of the Schwartz Avenue male residents include chauffeur, laborer at an iron foundry, gardener, building contractor, and one factory porter. The African-American women either did not work or maintained domestic jobs for private families, such as a maid, laundress, or cook.(7)

The community has survived mostly due to its strong cohesive ties to the people that live there. Several people have stated that the

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-3046

Name Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

people on Schwartz Avenue are all part of one family. A community association called the Schwartz Avenue Neighborhood Group exists today and helps seek improvements for the area.(8)

ENDNOTES

1. Louis S. Diggs, Since the Beginning: African American Communities In Towson. (Uptown Press, 2000).
2. Loni Ingraham, The Legacy: Why Schwartz Avenue Must Survive. The Towson Times, (20 October 1993).
3. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).
4. Ingraham.
5. Diggs, p. 113.
6. Map of Baltimore County. (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley, 1915).
7. U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. (National Archives).
8. Ingraham.

OWNERSHIP AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2002

401A Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 45	Louis and Gertrude J. Guy and Joan L. Johnson -- tax id # 901352360 401A Schwartz Avenue Liber 8335 Folio 110
401 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 46	Bhupinder Singh -- tax id # 913205650 401 Schwartz Avenue Liber 14833 Folio 526
403 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 44	James R. and Helen L. Guy -- tax id # 904000380 403 Schwartz Avenue Liber 7791 Folio 406
403A Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 38	Louis Guy, Jr. -- tax id # 923500990 403A Schwartz Avenue Liber 9416 Folio 353
407 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 59	Vivian D. Maynor -- tax id # 907000260 407 Schwartz Avenue Liber 16435 Folio 240
409 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 47	Jeane C. Guy -- tax id # 912570090 409 Schwartz Avenue Liber 6800 Folio 616
411 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 48	Charlotte E. Ringgold -- tax id #918354320 411 Schwartz Avenue Liber 6514 Folio 805
413 Schwartz Avenue	William W. and Anna Barnes -- tax id # 902000720

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No BA-3046

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Map 80 Parcel 49	413 Schwartz Avenue Liber 1503 Folio 300
415 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 50	Lark Fisher -- tax id # 914652840 415 Schwartz Avenue Liber 10241 Folio 493
417 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 51	Howard E. and Gladys Guy -- tax id # 907831960 417 Schwartz Avenue Liber 10168 Folio 142
421 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 78	Andrew T. Mcquaid -- tax id # 911151201 529 Sussex Road Towson, MD 21286 Liber 7331 Folio 768
421 H Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 210	Charles D. Parrish -- tax id # 911570090 P.O. Box 247 Glen Arm, MD 21057 Liber 6801 Folio 479
423 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 63	Kehar and Laura Singh -- tax id # 911570091 6307 Pinehurst Road Baltimore, MD 21212 Liber 16623 Folio 577
431 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 159	Margaret R. Conner -- tax id # 906202232 431 Schwartz Avenue Liber 15784 Folio 511
433 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 58	Gerald Zelinski and Constance A. Humphrey -- tax id # 913920690 433 Schwartz Avenue Liber 15465 Folio 168
435 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 81	A&G Corporation -- tax id # 907291870 11 E. Lexington St. Suite 100 Baltimore, MD 21202 Liber 8362 Folio 731
437 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 57	Renee W. and Julian A. Murray -- tax id # 903002890 437 Schwartz Avenue Liber 12916 Folio 177
439 Schwartz Avenue Map 80 Parcel 56	McCanner Perry and Joyce M. Floyd -- tax id # 923506550 439 Schwartz Avenue

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-3046

Name Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

Liber 12380 Folio 389

441 Schwartz Avenue Charles H. and Mary S. Adams -- tax id # 901130260
Map 80 Parcel 2 1225 Washington Drive
Annapolis, MD 21403
Liber 2308 Folio 516

443 Schwartz Avenue Louis and Gertrude J. Guy -- tax id # 910450230
Map 80 Parcel 55 443 Schwartz Avenue
Liber 5560 Folio 402

447 Schwartz Avenue Rajabali B. Masoudi -- tax id # 923350260
Map 80 Parcel 82 6909 Linden Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21206
Liber 8737 Folio 48

449 Schwartz Avenue Steve A. Fowlkes -- tax id # 902570920
Map 80 Parcel 204 449 Schwartz Avenue
Liber 8026 Folio 807

451 Schwartz Avenue Cleancy and Mary Ellen Taylor -- tax id # 912840060
Map 80 Parcel 65 451 Schwartz Avenue
Liber 8026 Folio 791

453 Schwartz Avenue Bobby W. and Dorothy L. Carter -- tax id # 91948037
Map 80 Parcel 154 453 Schwartz Avenue
Liber 8894 Folio 124

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3046

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3.0554 acres

Acreage of historical setting 3.0554 acres

Quadrangle name Baltimore East, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Schwartz Avenue is located near Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. The lots on Schwartz Avenue have historically been associated with tax map 80 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 11/7/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3046

Name Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

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Diggs, Louis S. Since the Beginning: African American Communities in Towson. Uptown Press, 2000.

Ingraham, Loni. The Legacy: Why Schwartz Avenue Must Survive. Towson Times: Towson, October 20, 1993.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.

5662 J NW
(COCKEYSVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

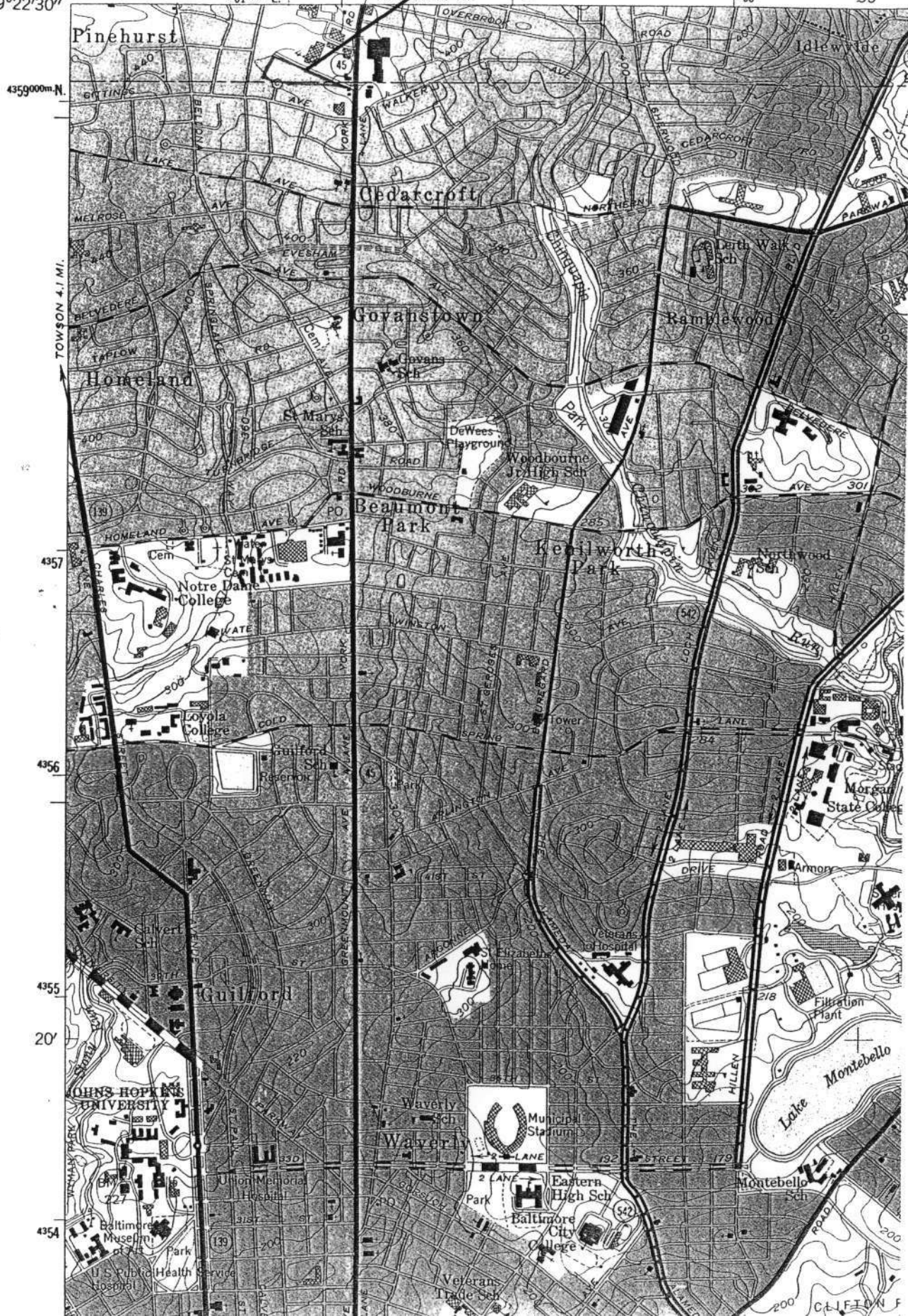
BA-3046
SCHWARTZ AVENUE AFRICAN
AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
TOWSON, MD
TOWSON, MD USGS MAP

76°37'30"
39°22'30"

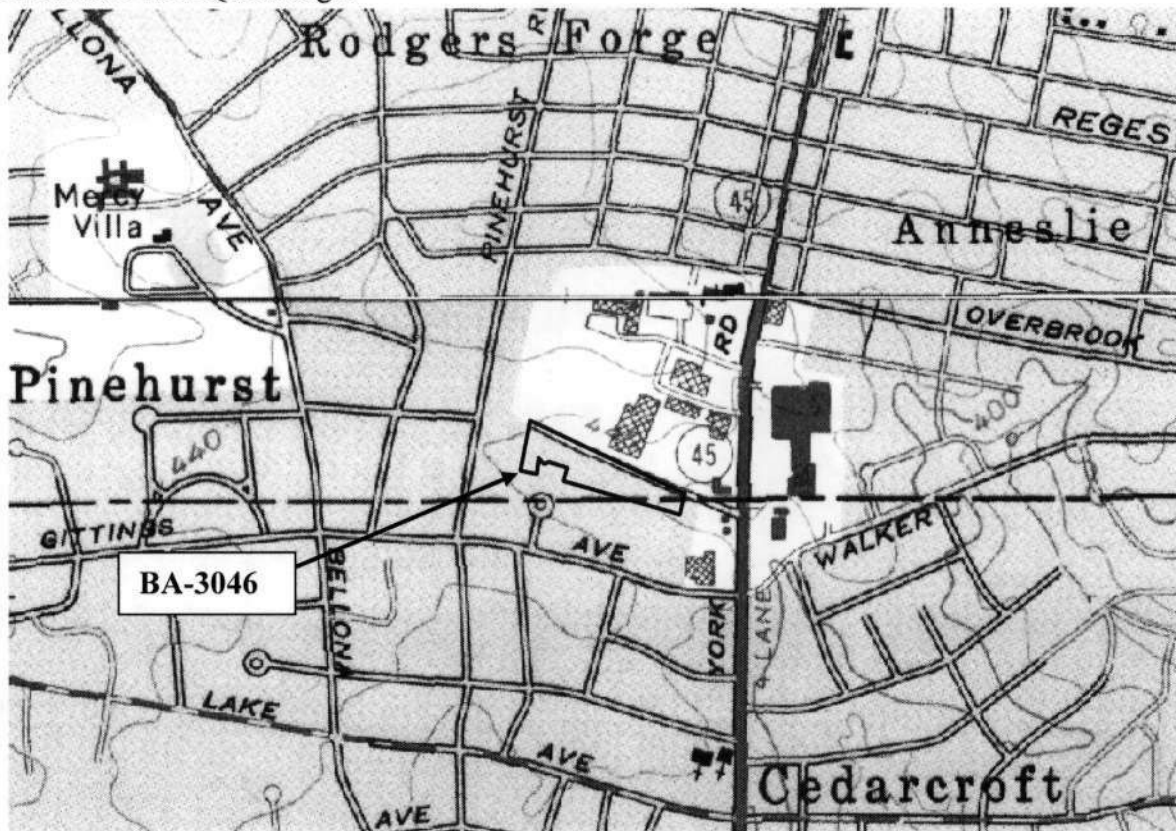
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TOWSON 17 MI

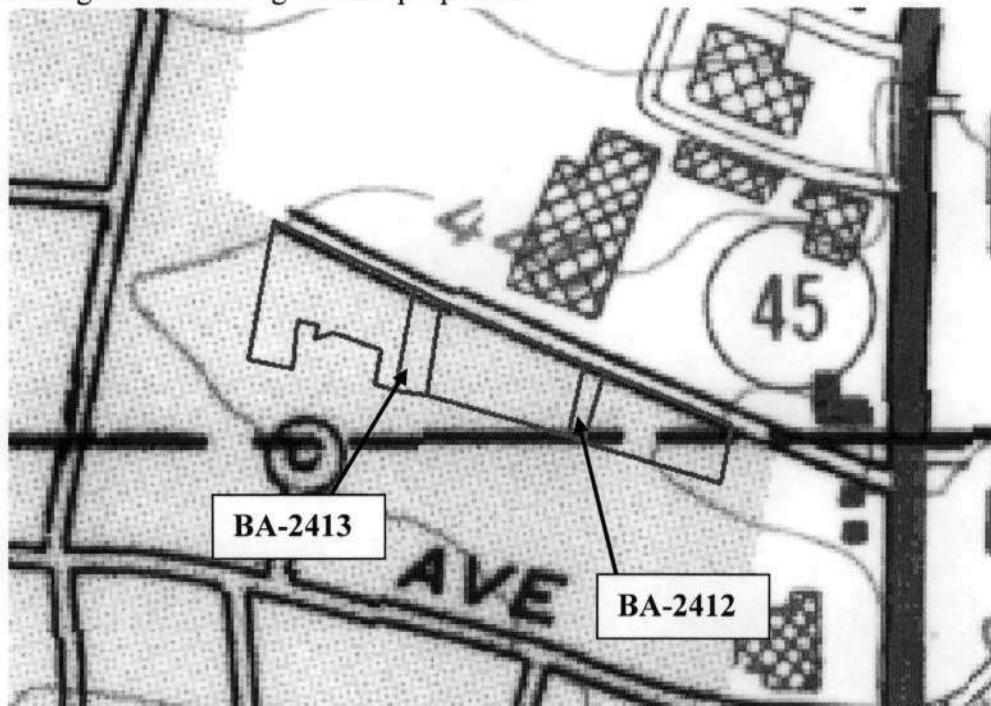
35'



BA-3046
Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District
Govans
Baltimore East Quadrangle



Enlargement showing interior properties





BA-3046

SCHWARTZ AVENUE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

11/2002

MD SHPD

401 - 409 Schwartz Avenue, view looking SE

1 of 4



BA 3046
SCHWARTZ AVENUE AFRILAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

411-415 Schwartz Avenue, view looking SE

2 of 4



BA 3046

SCHWARTZ AVENUE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES

11/2002

MD SHPD

417-431 Schwartz Avenue, view looking SE

3 of 4



BA- 3046

SCHWARTZ AVENUE AFRICAN AMERICAN
SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

433-441 Schwartz Avenue, view looking NW

4 of 4